

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Kentucky Board of Education

Department of Education

(Amendment)

704 KAR 3:340. Locally Awarded Certificates of Merit [~~Commonwealth Diploma Program~~].

RELATES TO: KRS 156.070, 156.160

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070, 156.160

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.070 authorizes the Kentucky

Board of Education to prescribe courses of study, curriculums, and programs as it deems

necessary for the common schools. KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to

promulgate administrative regulations determining the courses of study for the different grades

and the requirements for graduation from offered courses. This administrative regulation

implements a Locally Awarded Certificate Program [~~Commonwealth Diploma Program~~] and sets

forth the conditions and criteria under which a Locally Awarded Certificate may be issued by a

local board education [~~Commonwealth Diploma shall~~].

Section 1. (1) The local district may [~~Kentucky Board of Education shall~~] award a certificate of

merit to each student in the public schools of this state completing the requirements for a specific

certification of merit in the following areas:

1. Advanced Academic Study

2. 21st Century Learner

3. Specialized Career and Pathway and

4. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Pathway

~~[a Commonwealth Diploma Program a Commonwealth Diploma].~~

(2) The diploma shall be printed by the local district ~~[Kentucky Department of Education]~~ and

sent to the appropriate school ~~[district]~~ upon verification of program completion by the school ~~[to~~

~~the Department of Education by the local district]~~. The diploma shall be issued in the name of the

student.

(3) A student receiving a certificate of merit ~~[Commonwealth Diploma]~~ shall be cited as a

recipient at graduation ceremonies.

Section 2. The requirements for obtaining an Advanced Academic Study Certificate of Merit ~~[a~~

~~Commonwealth Diploma]~~ shall include:

(1) Successful completion of at least twenty-two (22) approved units of credit, including all the

minimum unit requirements for high school graduation established in 704 KAR 3:305 and any

additional units specified by the applicable local board of education;

(2) Successful completion of all minimum requirements of the Precollege Curriculum established

by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020;

(3)(a) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least

four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the Advanced Placement (AP)

Program Course Description booklets of the College Entrance Examination Board and which

include:

1. English - one (1) course;

2. Science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, or physics, or mathematics);

3. Foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French, German, Latin, or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional AP course (selected from English, science, foreign language, history, computer science, political science, music, or art);

(b) Successful completion (i.e., receiving a grade or the equivalent of "C" or better) of at least four (4) courses, which contain essential content as described in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program course description booklets and which include:

1. Language A, the student's first language English, - one (1) course;

2. Natural or experimental science or mathematics - one (1) course (selected from biology, chemistry, physics, or mathematics);

3. Language B, a foreign language - one (1) course (selected from French or Spanish); and

4. One (1) additional IB or AP course; or

(c) A combination of AP and IB courses that address the content areas specified in this section; or

(4) Completion of one (1) AP Examination in at least three (3) of the AP or IB areas specified in subsection (3) of this section, without regard to score.

(5) Districts may choose to substitute college level courses in some content areas for the AP or IB course requirements if determined to be of equal rigor.

Section 3: The requirements for obtaining a 21st Century Learner Certificate.

(1) Successful completion of minimum requirements for high school graduation and the Council on Postsecondary Education pre-college curriculum. Plus:

(2) Demonstrated proficiency in technology and world languages

(3) Seven (7) electives must be representative of the P21 framework.

Section 4: The requirements for obtaining a Specialized Career Pathway Certificate

(1) Successful completion of minimum requirements for high school graduation and the Council on Postsecondary Education pre-college curriculum, Plus:

(2) Attainment of at least one measure in each of the three categories of:

(a) technical skills academic

(b) academic proficiency skills and;

(c) employability skills.

Section 5: The requirements for obtaining a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

(STEM) Pathway Certificate of Merit shall include:

(1) Successful completion of minimum requirements for high school graduation and the Council on Postsecondary Education pre-college curriculum, Plus:

(2) Participation in either a Kentucky Science and Engineering Fair affiliated regional science fair, a cooperative field experience in STEM, or a recognized statewide or national technology mathematics or engineering competition.

~~[Section 3. (1) Reimbursement to the local school district by the Department of Education for the costs of the required AP examinations for a student successfully completing the criteria established in Section 2(4) of this administrative regulation shall be contingent upon the student receiving a minimum composite score of eight (8) on the three (3) required AP examinations.~~

~~(2) Reimbursement funds shall be sent to local districts once each year on the basis of documentation supplied by the district.]~~